

- - REMARKS - -

Claims 1-8 were pending in the application. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled. New claims 9-10 have been added. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,677,711 to Kuo ("Kuo") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,355,148 to Anderson ("Anderson"). Claims 3-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuo in view of Anderson, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,400,376 to Singh et al. ("Singh"). The claim rejections are respectfully traversed. The claims have nevertheless been cancelled in favor of newly drafted claims that more clearly define the invention.

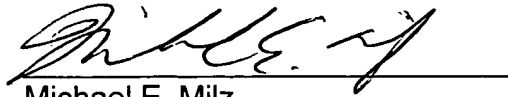
Newly added independent claim 9 is directed to an input control system comprising an input pad having a coordinate input portion for inputting coordinate data and four switches, each of the switches capable of having an ON state and an OFF state. In addition, claim 9 requires that the four switches each comprise a default operation, the default operation being a left-click operation of a mouse, a right-click operation of a mouse, a scroll-up operation, and a scroll-down operation, respectively. Moreover, the default operation for each of the four switches is changeable to a different operation by setting commands generated in a switch input section driver.

These limitations and features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art references, either alone or in combination. In particular, none of the prior art references disclose an input control system comprising an input pad having a coordinate input portion for inputting coordinate data and four switches, wherein the four switches each comprise a default operation as set forth in the claim, and wherein the default operation for each of the switches is changeable to a different operation by setting commands generated in a switch input section driver. Accordingly, independent claim 9 is not rendered unpatentable by the prior art. Claim 10 is dependent on claim 9 and is likewise patentable.

The pending claims are believed to truly distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such allowance is now earnestly requested. If for

any reason the Examiner is not able to allow the application, he is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4273.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Milz", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael E. Milz
Registration No. 34,880
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200